

REMARKS

In the Office Action of August 15, 2001, the Examiner required election of the claims of either Group I or Group II for examination. Claims 1-10 form Group I while claims 11-24 form Group II. The Examiner also stated that if Group II was elected, further election between Groups IIA and IIB would be required. Group IIA includes claim 24 and Group IIB includes claims 11-23.

The Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I with traverse. The Applicants have also added claims 25-27. These claims include linking claims under MPEP 809.03, which, if allowed, properly prevent restriction in the present case. Claim 25, which depends from claim 1, claims the method of forming a liquid crystal alignment layer wherein the method is a step in a method of forming a liquid crystal cell. Claim 26, which indirectly depends from claim 1 through claim 25, includes all the limitations of claim 11. Therefore, claim 26 is properly considered a linking claim which links the combination of claims 11-24 to the subcombination of claims 1-10 and 25. The Applicants therefore request that the restriction requirement between the claims of Groups I and II be made subject to the nonallowance of claim 26.

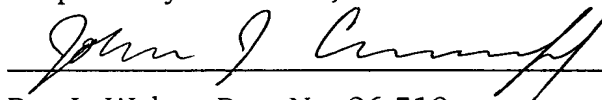
The Applicants have also added claim 27, which claims a liquid crystal cell made according to the method of claim 11. Claim 27 is properly considered a linking claim which links the process of claim 11 to the product made of claim 24. Therefore, the Applicants also request that the restriction requirement between the claims of Groups IIA and IIB be made subject to the nonallowance of claim 27.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and withdrawal of the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §. Should the Examiner care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

The Applicants have added three claims by this amendment. Accordingly, the Applicants have also filed the appropriate fee of \$ 27.00 for three additional

claims in excess of twenty. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication, or to credit any overpayment to deposit account number 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John J. Cunniff", is written over a horizontal line.

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